



News from the

# City of Carmel

For the Citizens of Carmel

Volume 2 • 2009

## Keystone Interchanges Now Open

On Saturday, April 18th, the new roundabout interchanges at 106th and 126th Street opened to traffic. Celebrations were held at both roundabouts to thank the area's residents, churches and schools for their patience and support through these projects.

"The goal of this project has been to create a safer roadway that better connects the east and west sides of Keystone. We are already seeing a reduction in the more than 200 accidents that have typically occurred each year along Keystone. Throughout this project, I have received very supportive

emails and phone calls from Carmel residents and commuters along Keystone who asked me to 'stay the course' and continue to work through the issues because they saw the long-term benefits this project would bring to the community," said Mayor Jim Brainard.

Below is an update on each intersection being constructed along Keystone Avenue:

### 106th and 126th Streets:

Opened to traffic, April 18th. Work to finalize each interchange continues so expect temporary lane closures until all details are



*Aerial computer rendering of the roundabout interchange at 106th and Keystone Parkway, looking west.*

*Continued on page 2*

## Japanese Garden Gate Dedication

The Japanese Garden Dedication and 15th Year Kawachinagano, Sister City Celebration was held in April at the Japanese Style Garden located just south of Carmel City Hall. This 15 year relationship has helped foster friendship and understanding between the people of Carmel and the



*Visitors from Kawachinagano, Osaka, Japan work on the Sukiya gate in the Japanese Garden located just south of the Carmel City Hall parking lot.*

people of Kawachinagano.

The ceremony featured Mayor Jim Brainard, speakers from the Carmel Sister Cities Committee, visitors from Japan and a tree planting in the garden. This was followed by Kawachinagano Day, a Japanese cultural exposition that featured demonstrations of Calligraphy, Koto performance, Origami, Tea Ceremony, and Flower arrangements.

Mr. Tsuji and three

other workers from the Kawachinagano International Friendship Association (KIFA) traveled to Carmel to assemble a Sukiya gate in

*Continued on page 2*

### Inside this issue:

- 2-3 Carmel Government
- 4-5 City Department News
- 6-7 Events
- 8-9 Of Interest
- 10-11 Parks
- 12 2009 Meetings

## A Message from the Mayor

As the days grow longer and warmer, I've noticed children and families out enjoying biking and walking in neighborhoods and along paths. To encourage a bicycle friendly community and create more connectivity for cyclists and commuters in Carmel, the City has created the Carmel Access Bikeway (CAB). This system of bike routes and loops around the City will be integrated into Carmel's existing bicycle network.

Carmel welcomed visitors from our sister city, Kawachinagano, Osaka, Japan. They traveled to Carmel to present the City with a beautiful new gate which was built and dedicated at the Japanese Garden behind City Hall.

With summer just around the corner, there are many outdoor events coming up in Carmel such as the Arbor Day Celebration, Gazebo Concerts, and Farmers Market. Be sure to take



*Mayor Jim Brainard*

advantage of these wonderful opportunities to spend time with family and friends. Don't forget to visit the City's website at [www.carmel.in.gov](http://www.carmel.in.gov) for more details.

I look forward to seeing you out and about as the weather improves. Please feel free to call or email me if you have questions or suggestions. Your comments and ideas are always welcome.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Brainard".

Mayor Jim Brainard

## Keystone Updates

complete. Construction by Milestone Contractors.

### **136th Street:**

Currently closed to east/west traffic at Keystone; expected to open when interchange reaches substantial completion in early August, before the start of school. As a provision of the project, Keystone Avenue is also closed, just north of 131st Street to US 31, for 45 days, beginning on April 13, 2009. This closure will not affect east/west traffic on 131st Street or traffic heading south from 131st Street. However, northbound traffic on Keystone will be detoured east or west on 131st Street. Work by Walsh Construction.

### **116th Street and Carmel Drive:**

Reith-Riley Construction is working on the early drainage installation and frontage road system between these two intersections. Bids were opened on March 9, 2009 for the full

interchange construction. It is anticipated that 116th Street closures will begin in late May or early June so that the interchange can be functional before the end of the year. Construction on the Carmel Drive interchange will begin in the spring of 2010.

### **131st Street:**

The City now has preliminary plans and is rapidly moving forward with the design. Bids for this project will most likely be opened in the fall of 2009 with construction beginning in 2010.

The City of Carmel assumed ownership of Keystone from the state in September 2007. An agreement was made between Carmel and Indiana that the Keystone Avenue project will be complete before the state's \$500 million upgrade to U.S. 31 in Hamilton County begins in 2011. Therefore, this project is being designed, bid and constructed at an accelerated pace.

## Japanese Garden Gate Dedication

the garden. The Sukiya was assembled with high quality natural wood using special hand tools and black Japanese tile. This traditional Japanese construction is done without the use of modern nails, screws, brackets, hinges, etc.

Carmel Sister Cities, Inc. and the City of Carmel created the Japanese Garden

at City Hall with the help of generous donations, to commemorate Carmel's relationship with its Sister City, Kawachinagano, Osaka, Japan. The garden is intended to provide the community with a restful and relaxing oasis where they can come to reflect and enjoy the green space. When complete,

nature inspired elements in this space, associated with Japanese Gardens, will include a gateway with sculpture, a garden path, a cove with crane sculptures, lantern sculptures, benches, pond edge boulder groupings, tree groupings, and a weeping willow view.

This 3 year Japanese Garden project was made

possible by monetary and in kind donations by people in the Osaka, Japan and Carmel areas. Donations are appreciated. Checks should be made payable to Carmel Sister Cities, Inc., Japanese Garden Project and directed to Kay Brunson. Kay can be contacted at [brunsonco@cs.com](mailto:brunsonco@cs.com) or (317) 496-7327.



## Stimulus Plan

The City of Carmel has been active in the development and the implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Mayor Jim Brainard was a regular participant, along with colleague Mayors from around the country in the deliberations with

the Congress and the Administration which led to the passage of the bill by the Congress on February 13. Following signature by the President on February 17th Mayor Brainard has worked hard on the implementation of the bill, including meeting with the President and members of the cabinet in February.

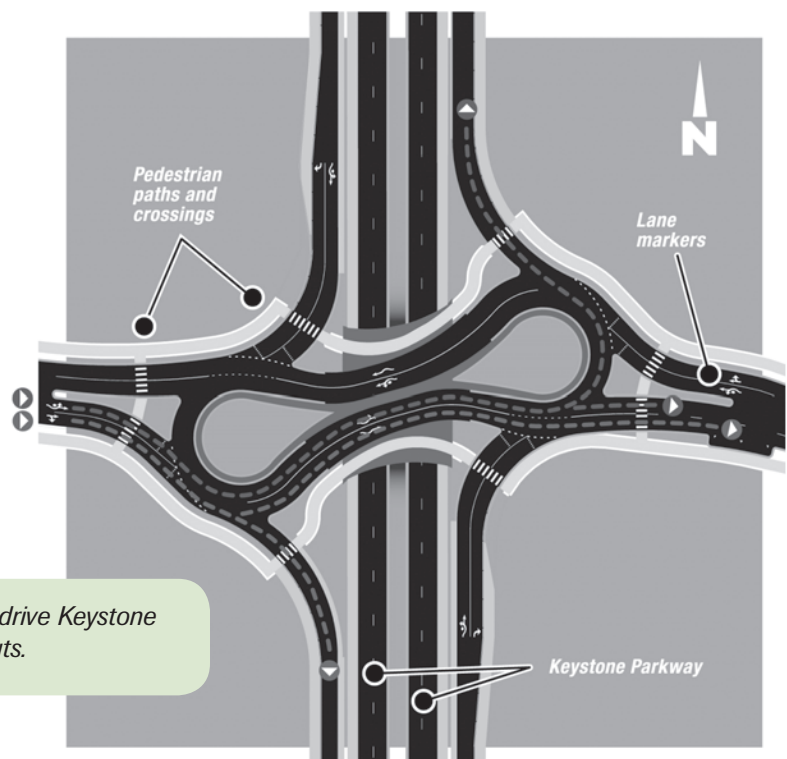
The City of Carmel will benefit in two important ways from Recovery Act funding: direct allocations to the city from formula programs and grants through the competitive application process. Under the formula program, the city will be receiving funding from the Community Development Block Grant and the Byrne

Justice Assistance Grant program. On the competitive side the City will be applying for funding under the Community Oriented Policing Services program, the Competitive Surface Transportation Program, and many others. The City of Carmel expects major new investments in the City as a result of the Recovery Act.

## Keystone Parkway

### Safely Navigating the New 106th and 126th Street Roundabouts

The roundabouts at 106th and 126th Streets and Keystone Parkway incorporate a double tear-drop shape, instead of a single round shape. This new design will function much the same as our previous roundabouts; however, the separation of grade allows Keystone's north/south traffic to flow smoothly underneath the roundabout interchange. Travelers along Keystone must use exit ramps to access the roundabouts to go east or west on the cross streets of either 106th or 126th. Please see the tips below for safely navigating roundabouts.



*Diagram of how to drive Keystone Parkway roundabouts.*

### Please remember these four tips for safely navigating roundabouts:

- 1.** When approaching the roundabout, look to your left. Vehicles already in the roundabout have the right-of-way. If there is no traffic in the roundabout, you do not need to stop. If there is traffic present, then wait for a break in traffic before entering the roundabout.
- 2.** Slow down. Use proper judgment when determining how fast to drive around the roundabout. 15-20 mph is a safe speed.
- 3.** Select the appropriate lane before you enter the roundabout. Keep your car in the same lane as you enter and exit the roundabout. (see diagram)
- 4.** Buses, trucks, and vehicles with trailers may need more than one lane on the roundabout. Use caution when next to or near a larger vehicle when entering a roundabout.





The Carmel Access Bikeway (CAB) is a system of bike routes and loops integrated into Carmel's existing bicycle network. With commuters, recreational riders, and families in mind, this system

## Carmel Access Bikeways



has been designed to identify existing streets and multiuse paths to help cyclists move around Carmel.

The CAB system includes eight cross-city bike routes and five bike loops. The bike routes consist of two east-west routes and six north-south routes. The routes are intended for longer trips and will provide access to various

destinations throughout Carmel, as well as links to neighboring communities. The bike loops guide cyclists past some of Carmel's best amenities and return them to the same point at which they started. Each loop, geared toward casual riders, offers its own unique experience to cyclists by highlighting different areas

within Carmel.

Each route will be marked with color-coded arrows to guide users. It is Carmel's hope that implementing this network of routes and loops will encourage more people to ride their bikes and create an even better experience for those that are already cycling in Carmel.

## Construction Updates

### Towne Road and 136th Street Roundabout:

The intersection of Towne Road and 136th Street opened to traffic on December 18th. Please be advised that there will be construction operations to complete in the spring.

### Monon Bridge over Carmel Drive:

The Monon Bridge over Carmel Drive is now open to traffic. Remaining work on the bridge will continue into the spring. This work consists of constructing the trail connection to Carmel Drive, plaza construction, signage implementation, masonry, and landscaping. Please note, the bridge is not yet accessible from Carmel Drive since the access path has not been completed. For more information about this project, please visit: [www.mononbridge.com](http://www.mononbridge.com).

### 131st Street (Spring Mill Road to Ditch Road):

131st Street from Spring Mill Road to Ditch Road is closed and is expected to be open to traffic in August 2009. 131st Street between Spring Mill Road and Cardif Drive will be accessible throughout the project. However, 131st Street will be closed to west bound through traffic just west of Cardif Drive and to east bound through traffic just east of Ditch Road. While the existing structures are removed and the new structures are being installed, the creeks will be impassable. Access to subdivisions on 131st Street will be limited to emergencies and will otherwise be closed to through traffic. Alternate accesses are available. Access to single residential lots on 131st Street will be maintained at all times via

Six Points Road. Marked detour routes will be placed prior to the closure occurring. The detour route around this closure will be 136th Street from Spring Mill Road to Ditch Road.

Please anticipate a future update regarding another closure on this project at the intersection of 131st Street and Ditch Road for roundabout construction.

### 1st Avenue SW:

1st Avenue SW between 1st Street SW and 3rd Street SW was opened to traffic

in December. Some work remains to be done on the project and may continue, weather permitting, without obstructing traffic and will be completed in early 2009. The street lighting will be installed as weather permits and will be energized once service is provided as part of the Indiana Design Center project.

Please visit the City's website at [www.carmel.in.gov](http://www.carmel.in.gov) for more details on road projects.





## Indiana Building Green Symposium 2009

Mayor Jim Brainard was one of the keynote speakers at the 2-day Indiana Building Green symposium in March held at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. More than 400 building designers, owners, operators and developers convened for this annual conference that focused on how new and existing buildings can Think Green.

Mayor Brainard also participated in a panel

discussion that highlighted the challenges and successes seen by Indiana cities and towns that are trying to go green.

Mayor Brainard was among other qualified keynotes speakers such as Ed Mazria, an internationally-recognized architect, author, educator, and visionary. Sessions of the symposium included a tour of local LEED® facilities, the past chair of the national US

Green Building Council, LEED® Workshops, Green incentive opportunities, and case studies on some

remarkable buildings. In addition, over 40 exhibitors showcased the newest green products.

The Indiana Building Green Symposium is developed by the US Green Building Council - Indiana Chapter and collaboratively with local chapters of American Institute of Architects

- International Interior Design Association
- Construction Specifications Institute
- American Society of Heating and Refrigeration Engineers
- Building Owners and Managers Association
- Ball State University's CAP: Indianapolis Center



## Recycling Options in Carmel

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site

901 North Range Line Road • [www.carmel.in.gov](http://www.carmel.in.gov)

#### Drop-off hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Sunday & Monday: Closed

Please do not drop-off recyclables when collection site is closed.

#### Recycling Materials

##### Accepted:

- Plastics and Glass
- Newspapers and Magazines
- Cardboard
- Aluminum and Metal Cans

*(for household hazardous waste materials accepted visit website)*

Please note that this site is for only residential not business purposes only. Must be resident of Carmel.

### Prime Life Enrichment

1078 Third Ave. SW  
(next to Carmel Ice Skadium)  
[www.primelifeenrichment.org](http://www.primelifeenrichment.org)  
24 hour drop-off

#### Recycling Materials Accepted:

- Aluminum Cans
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Newspapers/Phone Books
- White Office Papers

Please rinse out all containers

### All Carmel Clay Schools

For locations visit [www.ccs.k12.in.us](http://www.ccs.k12.in.us)

- Accept all paper



## New Police Officer



Trevor M. Renforth

**Trevor M. Renforth** is the Carmel Police Department's most recent hire. He was a police officer for the Los Angeles Police Department for 3 years. Renforth is originally from Franklin, Indiana. He was hired on February 23, 2009.



### Regional Performing Arts Center

The photo above is a view of the Concert Hall under construction looking towards the east. The building is located at the southeast corner of City Center Drive and Third Avenue Southwest and is designed with extremely high quality acoustics. The scaffolding work will soon be complete and work has started on the interior of the hall. Completion of the Concert Hall is scheduled for the fall of 2010.

# Hoosier Burn Camp May 27



## Wednesday, May 27

Fundraiser sponsored by  
Carmel Firefighters Local 4444

### Carmel Fire Station Headquarters

**Registration** is from 8 - 9:15 a.m. or pre-register at  
[www.carmelfirefighters.com](http://www.carmelfirefighters.com).  
Coffee, donuts and juice provided.  
Bikes leave at 9:30 a.m.

**Destination:** Hoosier Burn Camp at Camp Tecumseh in  
Brookstone, Indiana

**Cost:** \$30 per bike  
(includes lunch at the  
Hoosier Burn Camp)

Hoosier Burn Camp is  
a non-profit organization  
offering summer camps for  
young men and woman  
(8 - 18 yrs of age) from  
Indiana who have  
experienced injuries from  
burns or who have been  
treated for burn injuries  
in the state of Indiana.

**Hoosier Burn Camp Ride  
Wednesday, May 27**

**Registration from 8 - 9:15 a.m.  
Bikes leave at 9:30 a.m.**

**Leaving from Carmel Fire  
Department Headquarters**

**Arrive at Hoosier Burn  
Camp at Camp Tecumseh in  
Brookstone, Indiana**

## City of Carmel's Memorial Day Celebration

The City of Carmel will be  
holding a Memorial Day  
Ceremony to remember  
those who have served our  
country. The ceremony will  
include remarks from Mayor  
Jim Brainard and a keynote  
speaker. Teams of students  
from Carmel Clay Schools  
will participate in a flag  
raising ceremony and place  
flowers at the Memorial to

**Memorial Day Celebration  
Friday, May 22nd  
9 a.m.  
Carmel Clay Veterans  
Memorial Plaza located  
in City Center**

commemorate all military  
veterans. Patriotic music will  
be provided and public is  
welcome to attend.

## Bike Week May 11-15

Refreshments will be  
provided at the Monon  
Center at Central Park where  
a Park and Ride option will  
also be available.

**Bike to Work Day  
Friday, May 15  
6:30 - 9 a.m.**



### Personalized Brick Pavers Veterans Memorial Plaza

Recognize a friend or loved one  
with an engraved paver to be  
placed at the Veterans Memorial  
Plaza Visit the city's website at  
[www.carmel.in.gov](http://www.carmel.in.gov) to download  
an order form or for more  
information.



# Summer Family Concert Series June 3 - August 5

## Carmel Fountain Square Committee Summer Family Concert Series at the Gazebo FREE

### 2009 Schedule

#### Date Performers

#### Musical Style

#### June

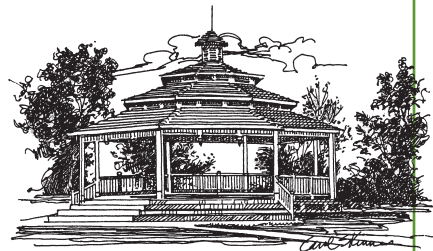
3	Indianapolis Jazz Orchestra	Jazz & Cover Tunes
10	Audio Diner with Michele Haddix	Blues, Rock, Folk & Country
17	Cool City Swing	Big Band & Variety
24	Rick K & The All-nighters	Oldies

#### July

1*	Blair and Company	Pop Cover Tunes
8	Scott Greeson & The Trouble With Money	Pop Cover Tunes
15	Brent Evans & Lost Luggage	Nostalgic Musical Journey
22	Mike Butler & Slim Pickin	Bluegrass
29	Doug Lawson & Middle of the Road	Country

#### August

5	Endless Summer	Smash Hits from Yesterday & Today
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**Summer Family Concert Series  
at the Gazebo**  
Wednesday Evenings 7:00 p.m.  
June 3 - August 5, 2009

The 2009 Gazebo Concert  
Series complete schedule  
can also be found on  
the City's website at  
[www.carmel.in.gov](http://www.carmel.in.gov)

**\*Don't miss the July 1st  
concert for double the  
excitement! The Carmel  
Farmers Market will be  
set up that evening as well.**



## Peele House Relocation

A celebration was held for the relocation of the Peele House from Main Street to a temporary location at 2nd Street SW and the Monon Trail. Ron Carter president of the Carmel Redevelopment Commission (CRC) presided during the brief ceremony where he recognized members of the Carmel Clay Historical Society and other local dignitaries. More than 50 people came to see the house moved and several walked along with the house as it moved slowly through the streets in the Arts and Design District.

Elizabeth Peele was a well known Quaker weaver in Carmel (then Bethlehem). In 1846, the post office discovered that there were two Bethlehem's.

Peele then searched for a name suitable for the Quaker settlement and found the name "Carmel" in the Old Testament. The name was adopted at a town meeting where Peele's husband, William, suggested the name.

The CRC and City of Carmel plan to move the house to a permanent location at North Range Line Road at a later date.



*Onlookers walk beside the Peele House as it heads east on Main Street in front of Muldoon's, making its way to a temporary location at 2nd Street SW and the Monon Trail.*

The Peele House was moved to allow for the continued development of the Carmel Arts District Lofts & Shoppes. This project will

include additional restaurant, retail, gallery and residential space, as well as a two-story underground garage for public parking.

## City Employees Graduate from Road School

The City of Carmel Street Commissioner, Dave Huffman and Operations Manager, Dave Loveall graduated from the first level of road school at the Indiana Street Commissioners Convention. They are now "Road Builders" and working towards the level of "Master Road Builders" through Indiana's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP).

LTAP provides technical assistance and training to the highway, road, and street departments of all 92 counties, 117 cities, and over 456 towns in Indiana. These local agencies are responsible for over 80,000 miles of roads and streets in Indiana. Technical assistance is provided through training programs conducted at

Purdue University and throughout the state, topical workshops and seminars on subjects pertaining to

*The City of Carmel Street Commissioner, Dave Huffman and Operations Manager, Dave Loveall graduated from the first level of road school at the Indiana Street Commissioners Convention.*

roads and streets, regular newsletters, and periodic publications. The intent of the Center is to provide the necessary information to help local units of government find the latest tools to analyze their highway and road problems and to help those responsible for the local transportation network perform their responsibilities correctly and efficiently.

## Police Memorial May 6

The Carmel Police Department is holding its annual Police Memorial Service on Wednesday, May 6th at the gazebo at Civic Square. Please come and join in remembering those who have fallen in the line of duty. The ceremony begins at 7 p.m. and will feature

**Carmel Police Memorial  
Wednesday, May 6  
7 p.m.  
Gazebo at Civic Square**

a 21 gun salute and color guard. For more information, please call Ann Gallagher at 571-2720 or visit [www.carmelpd.com](http://www.carmelpd.com).

## English Silver Tea May 7

The Carmel Arts Council is holding its annual "English Silver Tea" on Thursday, May 7th from 3-5:30 p.m. at the Ritz Charles in Carmel. This year's tea will feature a Victorian theme and garden. Tickets are only \$20. Lois Wyant will also be available to take pictures

**Carmel Arts Council  
English Silver Tea  
Thursday, May 7  
2:30-5:30 p.m.  
Ritz Charles in Carmel**

of your group at the event. For more information or to purchase your tickets please call 844-6033.



## Carmel Mayor Appoints New Member to Ethics Commission

Mayor Jim Brainard has appointed Miriam Dant to Carmel's Ethics Commission. The Ethics Commission was formed in October of 2007 to help facilitate the Code of Ethics in Carmel City government. Dant officially accepted her seat on the commission on Friday, February 27th. Her term is set to expire on January 1, 2011.

Dant is an attorney who has spent about 20 years in the field of governmental relations specializing in lobbying, regulatory

representation, and procurement. She is the only woman listed in the Indiana section of "Best Lawyers in America" for government relations law in 2007, 2008, and 2009. Prior to forming her own government relations practice, Dant Advocacy, Dant practiced at Baker & Daniels between 1997 and 2006 in the firm's government affairs group. Before that, she worked as Senator Evan Bayh's policy advisor for environmental and energy issues from



*Miriam Dant*

1993 to 1997. She also served as Indiana Securities Commissioner prior to working in the senator's office. At that time, she was the youngest Securities Commissioner in the United States.

## CarmelFest July 3-4, 2009

Be a part of this year's CarmelFest events and activities!

Visit the website to learn how you can be a sponsor, volunteer, vendor or participant in the parade.

Find out where you can get a spark button, how you can hunt for the medallion and learn more about this year's new event "CarmelFest has Talent."



[www.carmelfest.net](http://www.carmelfest.net)

## Brookshire Golf

Visit [www.brookshiregolf.com](http://www.brookshiregolf.com) for more information.

Spring is here and it's time to think golf. The City of Carmel's recent acquisition of Brookshire Golf Club offers golfers a new and affordable alternative. Brookshire has undergone an intense renovation and now features all of the amenities and opportunities of a top-notch golf club without the high prices.

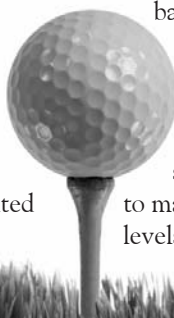
Throughout the winter, General Manager Dave Van Bruane's staff has turned the forty-year-old Pro Shop & Dining facility into a contemporary destination for not only golf but also for business meetings and banquets. These new banquet facilities will be able to accommodate up to ninety people. An updated layout, new equipment,

and increased technology will provide a state of the art experience for Carmel and Central Indiana residents. Corporate outings can be scheduled Monday through Friday.

This facility will serve as a fine complement to the golf course, which has been completely rejuvenated. Superintendent Robert Higgins has transformed the once-maligned grounds to lush fairways and smooth, bent-grass greens. The new improvements are not going unnoticed. "On a daily basis, we receive four or five comments on how much the course has improved. That recognition serves as great motivation to maintain and increase our levels of service and product,"

said Van Bruane.

Brookshire Golf Club offers seasonal memberships, open play by regular Greens Fees, and is host to several leagues, including the Brookshire Men's Club and the Brookshire Ladies 18 Hole League. Lessons and clinics will also be conducted by Golf Professional Melissa Montgomery. Individual lesson packages are available, and Montgomery will once again offer the Brookshire Junior Golf Clinic series, held during the summer weeks. Brookshire Golf Club is owned and operated by the City of Carmel, IN. Featured are 18 championship holes, 6,782 yds., Par 72. [www.brookshiregolf.com](http://www.brookshiregolf.com).



## Farmers Market

2009 Season



Every Saturday  
May 30 – Sept. 26  
8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
City Hall parking lot



For a detailed schedule visit  
[www.CarmelFarmersMarket.com](http://www.CarmelFarmersMarket.com)

## Monon Myths

In the course of serving our guests, we receive a variety of questions about The Monon Center. Following are the most frequent misconceptions about The Monon Center along with clarifications to ensure everyone is well informed.

### **MYTH #1:** You must be a member to use The Monon Center

**REALITY:** No membership is required to visit any portion of The Monon Center or register in the many classes and programs we offer. As a community recreation center, everyone is always welcome!

While it is true that we offer annual and monthly passes, commonly referred to as memberships by our guests, we also offer day passes and 10-visit value passes (providing a 50% savings off our daily rates). Regardless of how frequently you wish to use The Monon Center, there is a convenient pass option for you.

If all you want to do is participate in a program or class, we have got you covered. No membership or pass is ever required to participate in a program offered at The Monon Center – including our popular group fitness classes. Registration for all programs is open to everyone at the same price on a first come, first served basis.

### **MYTH #2:** The Monon Center is an exclusive, privately-owned facility.

**REALITY:** The Monon Center is a public facility operated by the Carmel/Clay Board of Parks and Recreation. The Park Board is a political subdivision established under Indiana law and created through an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City of Carmel and Clay Township. The Monon Center is a public service provided jointly by your city and township governments.

### **MYTH #3:** The Monon Center is in financial trouble and will have to close.

**REALITY:** There is absolutely no threat of The Monon Center closing. The Park Board, City of Carmel, and Clay Township are dedicated to ensuring The Monon Center's ongoing operation and success.

While it is true that The Monon Center's finances have been a topic of discussion, its actual financial performance is consistent with projections made in 2003 prior to the facility's construction. It was anticipated that annual subsidies would be needed to fund the start-up of the new recreational amenities in Central Park. The actual 2008 subsidy for The Monon Center was \$538,000. This subsidy was covered with existing cash

## The Monon Center AT CENTRAL PARK



reserves held in a Park Capital Fund.

Through its first 19 months of operation, The Monon Center achieved 86% cost recovery (calculated by dividing total operating revenues by total operating expenses). As a point of comparison, from 2004 to 2008, Plainfield, IN's successful and highly regarded Recreation and Aquatic Center achieved between 61% and 68% cost recovery.

To minimize the annual subsidy needed to operate The Monon Center, the Park Board is currently developing a Business Plan to identify the true cost recovery potential of the facility. The Business Plan will not only identify opportunities for additional revenue, but also explore places where operating expenses can be reduced. The Business Plan is anticipated to be completed by April 2009.

### **MYTH #4:** My taxes have been raised to subsidize The Monon Center's operation.

**REALITY:** There are currently no plans to raise taxes for the purpose of subsidizing The Monon Center's operation. Under Indiana law, the Park Board has no legal authority to levy taxes. Only the City Council and Township Board have the authority to levy and appropriate tax dollars for this purpose.

### **MYTH #5:** Funds from the before and after school program are being used to subsidize The Monon Center.

**REALITY:** Beginning with the 2006/07 school year, Carmel Clay Schools awarded the Park Board a contract to operate the Extended School Enrichment (ESE) before and after school program within each of the school district's 11 elementary schools. Since its inception, ESE's revenues and expenses have been tracked and accounted for as a separate and distinct cost center. ESE funds have not, and are not, being used to subsidize The Monon Center. To date, all net revenues generated from the before and after school program have been retained for ESE operations and reinvested in the program.

### **MYTH #6:** During busy times, there's no place to park at The Monon Center.

**REALITY:** When designing the parking lots for Central Park and The Monon Center, the Park Board was very conscious of its mission to be good stewards of the natural environment. Instead of creating a single, massive, environmentally-unfriendly parking lot, three distinct parking lots were built adjacent to the West Building, Outdoor Aqua Park, and East Building. While the parking lot in front of the West Building can at times be very busy, there is usually ample parking in the east parking lot (accessible only from the park entrance off Rangeline Road/Westfield Boulevard). All of the amenities in the West Building can be accessed from this parking lot.

### **MYTH #7:** There are an awful lot of weeds in Central Park and within the parking lot islands.

**REALITY:** All of the "no-mow" zones in Central Park, including those within the parking lot islands, are planted with native prairie. Prairie typically takes 2-3 years to properly mature and during this timeframe can look rather unkempt and weed-like. Once the prairie is fully established, visitors will witness a variety of wildflowers in bloom throughout the growing season. Prairies also require less maintenance compared to manicured grass, minimizing operating costs by saving on the labor and fuel needed for routine mowing.

In keeping with the theme of being environmentally sensitive, all of the parking lots within Central Park are designed so no water is discharged in the storm sewer system. All surface water from the parking lots is diverted into the islands containing prairie, which serve as part of our network of natural bio-swales. The water is then directed to the on-site wetlands and further scrubbed before entering the Central Park Lagoon.

### **MYTH #8:** It is difficult to register for programs at The Monon Center.

**REALITY:** The Monon Center offers five convenient ways to register for our classes and programs: 1) call 317.848.7275, 2) drop off registration form in-person at The Monon Center, 3) fax registration form to 317.573.5254, 4) mail registration form to 1235 Central Park Drive East, Carmel, IN, or 5) register online at [www.carmelclayparks.com](http://www.carmelclayparks.com).

We do recognize that our online registration process could (and should) be more user-friendly. To better serve our customers, we are currently working with computer programmers to significantly enhance our on-line registration process. Our goal is to make registering for programs through our website as easy as purchasing from your favorite on-line retailer. We hope to have a new web registration process operating soon. If you do experience any problems, please call us at 317.848.7275 and we will be glad to take your registration over the phone.

Have you heard something about The Monon Center and want to know if it is true or false, please call us at 317.848.7275 or email [support@carmelclayparks.com](mailto:support@carmelclayparks.com). We're more than happy to address your questions.

## Arbor Day

April 25

Help celebrate Arbor Day with Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation. If you are interested in promoting a green-friendly city and helping others learn the proper ways to plant and care for newly planted trees, this event is for you.

Register your group online at [www.CarmelClayParks.com](http://www.CarmelClayParks.com) or call Sarah Carling at 573-5243 for more information. Pre-registration is required.

**Arbor Day Celebration**  
Saturday, April 25  
Founders Park  
11675 Hazel Dell Parkway





## 2009 Meetings

### City Council Meeting Dates

The City Council meets on the first and third Mondays of the month at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall

**May 4 & 18**

**June 1 & 15**

Watch City Council meetings live on Channel 16. Channel 21 replays City Council meetings every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

### Board of Public Works & Safety Meetings

The Board of Public Works meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 10 a.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall

**May 6 & 20**

**June 3 & 7**

### Plan Commission

The Plan Commission meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall

**May 19**

**June 16**

### Board of Zoning Appeals

The Board of Zoning Appeals meets the fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Caucus Room

**May 18**

**June 22**

### Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation Board

All meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the West Conference room at The Monon Center, 1235 Central Park Drive East, Carmel, IN 46032.

**May 12 & 26**

**June 9 & 23**



News from the City of Carmel  
One Civic Square  
Carmel, Indiana 46032-7569  
(317) 571-2400

This publication is intended for residents and businesses in the City of Carmel. Postal carrier routes may exceed city limits.

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### City Officials

#### Carmel's City Council

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##### Kevin D. 'Woody' Rider At-Large

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##### Luci Snyder District 5

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##### City Court Judge Paul A. Felix

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Office: 571-2440

##### Clerk-Treasurer Diana L. Cordray

Office: 571-2414  
Email: [dcordray@carmel.in.gov](mailto:dcordray@carmel.in.gov)



### News from the City of Carmel

#### City Hall

One Civic Square  
Carmel, Indiana 46032  
(317) 571-2400

[www.carmel.in.gov](http://www.carmel.in.gov)

#### Hours:

Monday - Friday  
8 - 5 p.m.

#### City Court Hours

Monday - Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### Mayor's Office

Mayor James Brainard  
Office: (317) 571-2401  
Email: [jbrainard@carmel.in.gov](mailto:jbrainard@carmel.in.gov)

This newsletter is a publication of the City of Carmel. Please send your comments, suggestions and news items to City Hall.

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